whether any fresh contract with existing/ new sponsorers has been made; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) The programme 'Sarb Sanjhi Gurbani' had been telecast on Doordarshan as a Sponsored Programme with effect from 1-8-82 till 19-6-88. The contract with the sponsors expired on 19-6-88. No fresh contract has been signed as Doordarshan decided to telecast its own Shabad Kirtan programme in place of 'Sarb Sanjhi Gurbani', which has since been started.

Agricultural labourers in the country

1144. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of agricultural labourers at present, what it was in 1950-51 during the First Five Year Plan and what has been the percentage increase thereon, whether the work opportunity for them in agricultural operations has increased proportionately; and

(b) by what percentage agricultural production has increased during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The number of agricultural labourers as per Population Census 1951 and 1981 together with percentage increase is given below:

Year	Agricultural labourers (in millions)*
1951	20.11
1981	55.50
Percentage increase in 1981 over 1951	176

*Excludes Assam where Census could not be underraken in 1981.

Although there has been some increase in the work opportunities in the agricultural operations, it has not kept pace with the increase in the number of agricultural labourers. However, the Government of India are implementing a number of schemes to provide additional/supplemental employment opportunities in the rural areas like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) and Self-Employment for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY). Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB) are also implementing a number of schemes generating employment in the rural areas through handlooms, handicrafts and village industries. Besides, a few State Governments are implementing their own employment programmes in rural areas. Employment Guarantee Schemes (EGS) of Maharashtra and Emergency Rehabilitation for Rural Poor (ERRP) of Orissa are only two of such programmes which may be mention in this connection. Most of the States have Scheduled Castes|Tribes Corporations, Women Development Corporations and Economically Weaker Sections Corporations which have the creation of employment opportunities as one of their main objectives for special target groups. Government of India participates in their activities by contributing to their share capital.

(b) The all India index numbers of agricultural production (all crops), with triennium ending 1969-70 as the base period, for the years 1950-51, 1980-81 and 1987-88 together with percentage increases over 1950-51 are given below:

Agricultural year (July-June)	Index No.	Percentage increase over 1950-51
1950-51 . . .	58.5	
1980-81	135.3	+131.3
1987-88 (Provisional)	148.4	+153.7